

A SALUTE TO SERVICE

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“A SALUTE TO SERVICE”

In the five—year period between February 11, 1874 and March 12, 1879 only one new petitioner for membership by Initiation was elected by Temple Lodge No. 9 A.F. & A.M. at Milford, Delaware. He was Entered October 25, 1876. Ten years later he was elected Grand Master of Masons in Delaware.

This man was Dr. George William Marshall. While he would be remembered by a mere handful of the members of Temple Lodge living today, he is of interest to us for several reasons. And although a name, the place and date of birth, and the names of one’s parents are usually sufficient to identify an individual, these really tell us very little of the person. A look at his family—both those who preceded him, and those who came after—may be helpful, especially if we give any credence to the theory of a hereditary influence.

The Marshall family is of English origin, and the forebears of our subject were among the early Colonial settlers in the area of what is today Sussex County, Delaware. Records extant show that his great—great grandparents were Jacob and Mary Marshall, who lived at Lewes. Among their children was one Aaron Marshall, a Patriot who fought in the cause of the Colonies in the Revolution, and who was the father of fourteen (14) children, one of whom he named Aaron II, or Aaron Jr., born December 30, 1790 at Lewes, and living to February 28, 1865.

Aaron II became a merchant in Milton, Delaware and also engaged in shipping between Sussex County and the ports of Philadelphia and New York. He served as a Light-horseman in the War of 1812, and aided in the defense of Lewes. He was elected a member of the Delaware Legislature in 1838 and in 1862 was appointed Collector of Customs at Lewes, by President Lincoln. He married Jane Paynter. We have the exact birth date of but one of their nine children—a son whom they named William. He was the father of Dr. George William Marshall. William, the father, was born May 23, 1827.

These two are the principal subjects of our Paper.

William Marshall was born in Milton and spent his early life there, and in Georgetown. His early education was obtained in the local schools, and as he approached his ‘teens assisted his father in the store at Milton. At the age of 18 he commenced the study of medicine, to which he had been attracted, in the office of Dr. William Wells Wolfe, of Milton, the then leading physician in Sussex County. Continuing his study, he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, where he was graduated March 25, 1847, while not yet 21 years of age. He returned to Milton to practice, but in the winter of that year took a full course of Lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. In the Fall of 1848 he returned to the University for a post-graduate course of study, completing it in half the usual time, and received his diploma in 1849. In 1848 he had been elected a Member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia. While in the City he engaged in the practice of medicine to pay his expenses.

During Dr. Marshall’s last year at the University the Gold Rush in California had reached “fever pitch” and he was invited to join a group then forming and accepted the invitation to become their surgeon for their trip to the West Coast, by ship. He accepted, and immediately after being graduated joined the famous Gordon Expedition--the first such group to leave the Atlantic Coast by sea, bound for California. The party sailed aboard the “SUSAN PERKINS”, rounded Cape Horn, and arrived on the West Coast in September of 1849.

Once ashore, those in the party divided, every man thrown upon his own resources. Dr Marshall with five others headed for the gold fields, some 300 miles distant. There, joined by others, they established the settlement they named "HANGTOWN", which was later to become Placerville.

The family tell us that along with his duties as a physician, he also served as "Mayor" of Hangtown. (And, in that day he may have served as Sheriff as well.) It is said that during the two years he was in California he traveled over 950 miles on foot, in the practice of medicine and the pursuit of his mining activity, and grew wiser from a number of other equally valuable experiences. He did find gold—in some amount.

On his return trip to his native State, via the Isthmus of Panama, he was stricken with black water fever, and most of his newly gained treasure went to pay for treatment and care. But he recovered, and arrived in New York in February, 1851, soon to find his way to Sussex County once more, where he set up a practice of medicine among the people of the Georgetown area. Not long thereafter he married Hester Angelina McColley, daughter of the Rev. Trusten P. McColley and Hester Smith McColley, who at that time owned a large estate at the southern edge of Milford and lived in the residence on the place, known then--and today--as Egglinton Hall. We are told that the bride's wedding band was made from a part of the "gold find" the Doctor had been able to save from his California experience. Two sons and two daughters were born to the couple: George William and Samuel Everett, and Angelina and Annie.

As a practicing physician in the community, he was concerned for the affairs of the residents, as well as their health, and served them in a civil as well as a professional capacity.

When it was determined to move the County Seat from Lewes to a more central location, Georgetown was actually "created" by an act of the Delaware Legislature in 1791, that fixed it "in James Pettijohn's old field". In a survey made by Rhoads Shankland, one of the first Commissioners named, a "Square" 100 yards each way comprised the center of the area and streets were laid off about it. The roads coming into the new community intersected at the "Square". For nearly a century that spot was a parking place for teams and ox-carts, a catch-all for rubbish, and--more principally--a slave mart. Dr. Marshall, himself, had bought a slave girl there, named "Liz".

By action of a later General Assembly, in 1851, the governing body of Georgetown was established as five Commissioners, to be appointed. Local ordinances adopted in 1859 endowed these Commissioners with certain powers, and spelled out their duties as to sanitary and police matters, street repairs, and so on. Against his will, it is claimed, Dr. William Marshall in 1861 was elected President of the Board of Commissioners. He at once set about cleaning up the "Square", and the girl Liz was used in this work, on behalf of the Board President. Once the area was cleaned up, the Doctor changed it to the general appearance and form as we know it today.

He laid out the Circle, within the Square, and planted it in grass. The Act concerning the treatment of the Square also authorized the Commissioners to "procure" and "set out" trees. The Doctor took it upon himself to provide for this as well, and arranged to have a number of trees brought by ship from the Hudson River valley to Milford, Delaware, and moved to Georgetown, where they were set out under his direction and supervision. But the peaceful, quiet rural life was not to last!

The Secession from the Union by South Carolina, and the taking of Fort Sumter had its effect in Delaware. Since she was a border State, feeling within her three Counties was varied. The first reaction was to preserve the Union, but the breach widened, and as heightened tensions grew, rival militia companies appeared at Milford, Georgetown, Lewes, and Seaford---just in Sussex County. The first Company organized in Georgetown was known as the "Sussex Guards", but it was short-lived. Another Company was formed, and Dr. (William) Marshall subsequently was its Captain.

Recognizing the growing difference of opinion among the County people on the question of the Union Dr. Marshall, in August of 1861, informed Major General Henry du Pont (in charge of the forces raised in Delaware) that men in the area felt that the formation of a Sussex County Regiment might be a solution to the secessional difficulties there. He wrote General du Pont saying that such a step would be “a death knell to any secession schemes which might have been, or may hereafter be inaugurated (by Davis, Bayard, Saulsbury & Co.) to carry this State out of sisterhood, or to enlist the sympathies of our people on the side of ‘Southern Rebellion’, or from the States’ Rights Doctrine”. In September eleven (11) loyal Companies met to consider forming such a Regiment.

When the Third Regiment of Delaware Volunteers was organized in January 1862, Dr. Marshall was commissioned Surgeon of the unit, and saw service in the field with it. In August of that year, while in charge of the general hospital at Front Royal, Virginia, during a swift raid carried out there by Captain Robert Baylor of Baylor’s Light Horse, C.S.A., Dr. Marshall was wounded, and captured. He made a daring escape on horseback while being hotly pursued and shot at, but succeeded in eluding his pursuers by rolling off his horse, into a ditch, injuring his hip in the fall. Slowly he made his way back to the Union lines, and to his Regiment. Then, after Antietam in September, 1862, being ill and still suffering from his wounds, from which he never really recovered, and unable to get leave, he resigned (his Commission) to come home.

As he regained his strength he became active again, and, in answer to the November call of President Lincoln for men, recruited two Companies, and was mustered in as Captain of one of them. Both Companies were incorporated into the Sixth Delaware Regiment of Volunteers and Dr. Marshall was obliged to surrender the Captaincy when he was commissioned Surgeon again, with the rank of Major, in May of 1863. This Regiment first served in protecting the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad line (from Washington to Philadelphia), and the vitally strategic bridge over the Susquehanna, at Havre de Grace, Maryland, and later was assigned to duty at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River. Dr Marshall was serving at that post when the Capt. Baylor, previously mentioned, was confined there as a prisoner of war, following his capture by Union forces. Marshall was mustered out of service in September, 1863, with an honorable discharge, In his tours of duty he served with distinction, and attained high recognition for his surgical feats during the war. He was happy to return to Georgetown, and the practice of medicine among his own people.

Soon after his return from the California gold fields Dr. Marshall had petitioned Franklin Lodge No. 12, A.F.& A.M. at Georgetown for the Degrees of Freemasonry, and was elected. He had been entered on November 10, 1852, and Passed on January 13 and raised on February 10, 1853. He was elected Master of Franklin Lodge in 1859, and in 1860 was elected Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. During the year 1866 he moved his family to Milford, where he continued his medical practice in conjunction with other business enterprises in which he also engaged there. Records in the Lodges, and in Grand Lodge, show that R.W. Bro. Marshall Dimitted from Franklin Lodge No. 12 on December 11, 1866 and Affiliated with Temple Lodge No. 9, at Milford, on May 30, 1867.

Settled at his new location he acquired a business which had been operated as a bark mill, and, completely renovating it and fitting it with new machinery converted it into one of the most complete grist mills on the Peninsula, giving it the name National Flour Mills. He also owned a brickyard, on the banks of the Mispillion river, at Milford, which he operated, and further, owned an interest in J.W. ABBOTT & CO., SHIPBUILDERS, and was its financial manager. Dr. Harold Bell Hancock refers to Dr. William Marshall as “Physician and Shipbuilder”. He says he engaged in these enterprises to earn enough money to educate his sons.

But he did not neglect his medical responsibilities. In his practice he became particularly skillful in obstetrics and surgery. He was elected President of the Delaware Medical Society for 1869-1870, was a delegate to the 1872 meeting of the American Medical Association, and in 1882 was appointed Secretary of the (Delaware) State Board of Health, which had been formed in March, 1879. He served well in all his

several areas of responsibility, until his death on November 9, 1900, at the age of 73. He is buried near the main entrance to 'Odd Fellows' Cemetery at Milford, Delaware.

The daughter Angelina, born February 23, 1866 and named for her mother, spent her infancy and younger years in Milford. She married one Allan D. Jones, and after his death on January 2, 1919, she spent the last several years of her life at Milford, living in a dwelling where -years earlier-her brother George maintained his office as a physician, and operated a pharmacy. Annie married Mark Davis, a local boy, and they moved to the State of Wyoming.

Both sons, like their father, were members of the Masonic fraternity.

Samuel Everett Marshall was born September 6, 1862 at Georgetown. He attended the public school in Milford, the Newark Academy, and the Hudson River Institute, from which he was graduated in 1883. He then took up the study of dentistry, and was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Dentistry, with honors. He opened an office in Milford and practiced there until a month before his death on September 11, 1890, at the age of 28 years, following an illness of typhoid fever. Thus was cut short what might have been another exemplary career - professionally and otherwise.

He was Entered in Temple Lodge No. 9 on June 25, 1884, Passed July 23, and Raised August 27 of the same year. You will find him shown in the records as "S. Everett", "Samuel E.", and "Dr. S. Everett" Marshall. The Lodge minutes record him installed as Junior Deacon in 1885, Junior Warden in 1887, and Senior Warden in 1888. We can only speculate on what might account for his not becoming Master of his Lodge.

The other son, George William Marshall was born in Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware on August 31, 1854. After the family moved to Milford when he was twelve, he attended Milford Academy for his secondary education. In 1874, at the age of 20, he was graduated from Delaware College with an A.B. Degree, and after attending Jefferson Medical College for the next two years was there awarded a M.D. Degree. In 1877 his Alma Mater honored him with the Arts Master Degree.

He settled in Milford and engaged in the practice of medicine. On April 25, 1878 he was married to Mary Louise Donnell, daughter of Andrew and Rose (Mathewson) Donnell, of Newark, Delaware. They had four sons. Dr. George moved easily into areas of greater responsibility in his chosen field, and at the same time developed interests in civic, political, fraternal, and religious affiliations that afforded him opportunities to be of service to the people of the community and State.

Like his forebears he identified himself with the Presbyterian Church in Milford, where, years before, a Sunday School had been organized by the Miss Hester Angelina Mc Colley who was later to be his mother.

Upon the completion of his studies at Jefferson Medical College he petitioned for the Degrees of Masonry, and was elected by Temple Lodge No. 9, at Milford. He was entered October 25, 1876, Passed on December 13, 1876, and Raised March 2, 1877. His interest and ability were immediately recognized, and rewarded in kind. He served as Master of Temple Lodge twice, being first elected in June, 1879, and again in 1881. At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in 1880 he was elected Deputy Grand Master, so that he was still serving that office when he was elected the second time as Master of Temple Lodge No. 9.

Only since 1890 has it been the custom of Grand Lodge to advance the Deputy of one year to the office of Grand Master at the next Annual Communication. But R.W. George William Marshall was elected Grand Master in 1886 and was re-elected in 1887, serving with distinction.

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in 1885 Bro. Marshall presented a Resolution, the adoption of which resulted in the appointment of a Committee of three to prepare and present to the next Grand Lodge Communication a Burial Service for this jurisdiction. He served as a member of that Committee. That year he was also commissioned the Representative of the Grand Lodge of California near the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

In his Reports to Grand Lodge at those Annual Communications over which he presided as Grand Master, he offered several Recommendations, approved by Grand Lodge, which, subsequently, gave us a Digest of Laws and Decisions by Grand Masters, established in Grand Lodge what we know today as the Jurisprudence Committee, instituted a Committee on (uniform) Work for the Degrees of the Symbolic Lodge as conferred in Delaware, and a Lodge of Instruction for the purpose of disseminating that approved Work, required the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency before one could be installed as Master of a Lodge, and that a Master-elect receive the Actual Past Master Degree prior to his Installation.

Much of the business of the Annual Communication of 1888 was devoted to the approval of changes in the By-Laws of several Lodges in the Jurisdiction. Dr. Marshall's Address was very short, and dealt primarily with the establishment of the Lodge of instruction in Wilmington, under the Committee on Work.

He was called upon to render several Decisions during his terms as Grand Master. It might be of interest to note that in one Decision, regarding an Objection being made to a Petitioner who had been elected but NOT YET Entered, he was overruled by Grand Lodge, on recommendation of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address. He had ruled in accordance with the Code of the day which provided that a petitioner being once elected, the ballot "shall in all cases be final (and that word in italics); nor can it be set aside by the Lodge, Master, Grand Master, or even the Grand Lodge". We know, of course, that this has been changed, and the Code now provides for the Right of Objection, by a member of the Lodge which elected the petitioner. Perhaps the Code should have so provided in 1887.

But M.W. Dr. George's good "works do follow him".

Dr Marshall was affiliated with the American Academy of Medicine and the Delaware State Medical Society. He served ten years as Secretary of the state Medical Society, and was elected President in 1886. He, too, was a citizen as well as a physician. Dr. George was instrumental in the establishment of the Milford electric Light and Water Plant, and served two years as Commissioner. In 1890 he was President of Milford City Council. He had become a School Commissioner, and served twenty-eight (28) years on the Board of Education of the Milford Public Schools. He served as President of that Board in 1899, and, later, as the Secretary of the Board of Education of the consolidated public schools of North Milford.

The years from 1878 to 1895 found our subject an officer in the Delaware National Guard-8 of which he served as Captain, 2 as Lt. Colonel, and 7 as Colonel of the 1st Delaware Regiment of Infantry. He resigned his Commission in 1895.

Politically, he was an active and influential person in Republican circles. In 1892 he was a Delegate to the Republican National Convention at Minneapolis. He was elected president of the Republican Club of Delaware in 1895, and served four years. In 1899 he concluded seven years as Chairman of the Kent County Republican Executive Committee. Dr. Marshall was elected State Insurance Commissioner in 1900 and was re-elected for another 4-year term in 1904. He later served as Banking Commissioner of Delaware. In 1910 he was elected to the Senate of the Delaware General Assembly and served four years.

Delaware Governors appointed him to numerous posts. He long served as a Trustee of Delaware College, and was a member of the Committee on Instruction and Discipline there. On June 2, 1891 Governor Robert J. Reynolds named him one of six (6) Trustees of the Delaware State College for Colored Students, a land grant college established at Dover under an 1890 Act of Congress, and an enabling Act of the Delaware General Assembly the following year. He served continuously until his death nearly 24 years later.

From 1911 to 1915 he was a member of the Public Archives Commission. He had served a 3-year term, from 1908 to 1911, on the State Tuberculosis Commission. His wife, "Miss Mary", was later appointed here, and served from 1914 to 1917.

Active to the last in all his varied interests, Dr. George William Marshall died at his home on Sunday night, April 18, 1915, thus bringing to a close an honorable and distinguished career of service at the age of 60 years, 7 months, and 18 days. (In his history of The Grand Lodge of Delaware, Bro. Charles E. Green states that the Masonic Home of Delaware received its first bequest, in 1915, from the late William Marshall".)

The four sons born to Dr. George and "Miss Mary" were:

Andrew Donnell. Marshall,	born	2/ 10	/ 1879
William Marshall., Jr.	"	11/ 26	/ 1880
George Chester Marshall and	"	10/ 23	/ 1882
Samuel Mathewson Donnell Marshall	"	10/ 2	/ 1884

A Donnell became an attorney, practicing in Kent and New Castle Counties. G. Chester was an Agent in Real Estate and Insurance, with offices in Milford. William, Jr. (Dr. "Wid", as we knew him) and Samuel were doctors. All were members of Temple Lodge No. 9, but only Dr. Sam served as Master- in 1920. Dr. "Wid" lived longest of the four. When he died in September, 1971, he was the eldest member of Temple Lodge, having been Raised January 21, 1907, and maintaining his membership there for 64 years, plus. He was the Dean of our Senior Members when he addressed the Lodge on an occasion in their honor on October 26, 1967.

The Doctors Marshall opened and operated a hospital to serve the local area people. "Miss Mary"- Dr. Wid's mother - is credited with conceiving the need and providing the impetus that saw it opened in 1907. But that is a subject that may be pursued later, and is mentioned here only for the reason that it has a bearing on the conclusion of this paper.

Dr. Samuel Marshall had been graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1909, serving his internship at Methodist hospital in Philadelphia. He then for two years took special training in Ear, Eye, Nose, and Throat disorders and treatment. For the next two years he was associated with the clinics at Wills Eye and Methodist Hospitals until, in 1923, he was appointed house surgeon at Wills Eye Hospital. He completed his course of work there in 1914. He had been commissioned an officer in the Delaware National Guard in 1910, and resigned that Commission in 1912. When the United States became involved in World War I he enlisted again, in the Army Medical Corps, and saw service overseas as a surgeon in France. He was mustered out July 26, 1919, and returned to Milford to pick up the practice he had left.

When Dr. "Wid" had completed his schooling at Milford, he attended and was graduated from Delaware college, and then entered upon the study of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, which school granted him a Degree in Medicine on his completion of the work.

He served his internship at Delaware Hospital, Wilmington, and it was while visiting him there that his mother got the idea for that hospital in the Milford area. After completing his internship, Dr. "Wid" for seven months engaged in private practice at Easton, Maryland. Then, late in 1906, he entered into a partnership with his father in a practice which they conducted in the West side of their dwelling at 112 N.W. Front Street, Milford, and made their rounds of house calls as needed, both practices in keeping with the custom of the day. Their offices had the first X-Ray machine in Delaware south of the Wilmington hospitals.

With his father becoming more and more engaged in political matters, Dr. "Wid" found himself carrying on most of the practice he and his father had shared, all the while becoming more deeply involved in community affairs himself.

He had been one of the active leaders in the Scouting movement in its early days in our area, and still gave some time to this cause. From 1907 to 1917 he was a member of the General Staff of the Delaware National Guard, during which time he was chief Surgeon. In 1916 he saw service on the Mexican Border, in the foray with Pancho Villa. When the National Guard were Federalized in 1917 during World War I he was with the First Delaware Regiment of the Regular Army and served with the 28th Division until the Delaware troops were organized into the famous 59th Pioneer Infantry Regiment, which was a part of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Dr. Marshall was the Regiment's Senior Medical Officer.

The War ended, he returned to Milford and resumed his practice, after being mustered out with an Honorable Discharge, on August 2, 1919. For a little more than the next forty years the two brothers conducted a combined practice in the house which had been their home. In 1923 they also reopened the Marshall Hospital, in an immediately adjacent two-story structure that had been a dwelling, and operated the hospital until 1935.

Dr. Sam died February 25, 1961. Dr. "Wid" continued his practice, but on a curtailed basis, and confined to his long-time patients only, so long as he was able to do so. He died September 9, 1971, just 77 days short of 90 years of age.

In 1917, a graduate of the Methodist Hospital, Philadelphia, School of Nursing came to Milford to look over the situation as concerned the establishing of a hospital in the town. She was met by both the Doctors Marshall, and decided to stay in Milford. After making her decision she contributed her talents on the staff of both the Marshall Hospital and the Milford Emergency Hospital. After his mother's death, Dr. "Wid" and our gracious lady, Miss Rosanna Mabel Bowser were married. The ceremony was performed at Smyrna, Delaware on May 10, 1933. "Bowdy", as she is affectionately called by all who have been privileged to know her, is now 95 years old, and a guest at Milford Manor, a Milford Nursing Home, as at this writing.

It was my good fortune to visit with her some years ago when I first considered the preparation of a Paper such as this, and a chance remark she made at that time gave rise to the reason for this one being expanded as it is, about the four doctors in the family.

One can calculate their combined experience and length of service in the field of medicine at some 210 years, spread over a span of 125 years in time. For the last 75 of those years their practice was conducted in the dwelling that had been the home of Dr. William for a while, then Dr. George, and, later, Dr. "Wid" and "Bowdy".

During our conversation, to which I referred, she told me that as long as the doctors maintained a practice there, the house was never locked, and that should anyone need a doctor in the night, they needed only open the door and call "DOC", and someone would come down, in answer to the call.

Can you think of a finer tribute that could be paid such men for their service than this, which Mrs. "Wid" Marshall has expressed in the lines above?

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